DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) (a) No, Sir. FICCI has not submitted any action taken plan to rejuvenate the economy and to create employment opportunities in rural sector to the Ministry of Rural Development.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Steps to manage funds for rural development

1571. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
Dr. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank, in its report, has pointed out that Panchayats should adopt hire and fire policy to enable local administration to deal with resource crunch so as to control their budget better and give more powers to gram panchayat;

(b) whether this question was discussed recently during the meeting of the Chief Ministers of States in Delhi on 30.6.2004;

(c) if so, whether this is centralizing spending by transfer of funds to district and local government on proposed China like rural biz hubs; and

(d) if so, what was the outcome of talks and whether States have urged more funds for rural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) (a) and (b) A conference of Chief Ministers and Ministers in charge of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity was organized at New Delhi on 29-30th June, 2004, jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj to discuss and review all the schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development and implementation of Rural Development Programmes. The States/UTs committed themselves to implementation of the Rural Development Programmes with renewed vigour in co-operation with the Union Government. Issues relating to effective implementation of the various Schemes include devolution of functions, finances, functionaries, planning etc.

(c) and (d) The Conference decided to formulate a draft action plan towards acheiving the objective of strengthening Panchayati Raj Institution

to enable them to become true institutions of self-government for the Planning and Implementation of programmes of economic development and Social Justice as envisioned in the Constitution. Some State representatives expressed their reservation over any move to directly funds the panchayat by-passing the State Government. It was clarified that Government policy, based on the National Common Minimum Programme, is to avoid diversion or delay in funds reaching the panchayats and any alternative route for reaching funds to the Panchayats will be explored only in consultation with the State Governments. Some of the State Government demanded more funds for the rural development programmes.

Direct funding to Panchayati Raj Institutions

1572. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allocate funds directly to the Panchayati Raj Institutions for rural development schemes;

(b) whether Government received any complaint relating to the manner adopted by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) to implement Central schemes; and

(c) whether Government propose to change the existing criteria for allocation of funds and review the proposed direct funding to Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) (a) to (c) The National Common Minimum Programme of the Government, *inter-alia*, aims at ensuring that all funds given to the States for implementation of Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development Schemes by Panchayats are neither delayed nor diverted. It further states that after consultation with the States, the Government will consider crediting elected Panchayats with such funds directly. There is no proposals to change the existing criteria for allocation of funds for rural development programmes.

Re-survey of Government lands

1573. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has sought Central